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Locality

908 T.C.R

[illegible]r

[illegible]eting of Interdepartmental Group
Friday, June 25, 1954

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Present: Holland, Burrows, Pearson, Wieland, Holcomb, Warren, Sparks, Jamison, Herron, Sanders, Atwood, Col. Clark, Woodward, Pawley

1. Calling the OAS meeting

Holland reported that the Secretary had not yet approved his recommendation that the OAS meeting be called. The Secretary believed that on the assumption that Arenas failed, Arbenz and Toriello would become heroes and we may not succeed in obtaining our resolution. Such a major diplomatic defeat would be a great blow to the US prestige. In analyzing the alternatives with the group, Holland believed that if we called off the meeting the results would be catastrophic; if we postponed the meeting, each day of postponement would make our position worse. In view of these alternatives he was planning to see the Secretary again to recommend that there was a great risk in the calling of the meeting, we should do it.

During the meeting Holland and Pawley left to talk with General Smith and later reported that General Smith favored the calling of the meeting.

2. Lack of meeting

Holland reported that Gross had told him this morning from Rio to say that no a read to borrow the meeting at Rio. Later in the meeting while Holland was absent the question arose as to whether we would be able to inform any of the participating countries of this change, especially Venezuela and Argentina, but it was decided to check with Holland.

3. Security Council Action

Holland reported that the British have a read to abstain with respect to [illegible] at for a meeting; thus it is a present that there will be no veto in the Guatemalan request. The group believed that in the absence of Security Council action the Arabs alone might accept the Peace Commission offer.

4. [illegible] for the meeting on the assumption that it will be called

Holland left the meeting and asked that the group go over the [illegible] for the meeting. Pawley outlined the following steps:

(a) [illegible] to check with all of the members of the OAS to be sure they have their instructions so that there need by only one session of the Council. Depending on when we receive the [illegible] Council meeting time would be set, [illegible] afternoon.

(b) Be

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DEPARTMENT OF STATE A/CDC/MR

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(b) He reported that the following countries had agreed to cosponsor the request for the Council meeting - Brazil, Costa Rica, Cuba, Dominican Republic, Salvador, Haiti, Honduras, Nicaragua, Panama, Peru and the United States. These eleven would also constitute the majority needed to call the meeting of Foreign Ministers.

(c) The resolution for action of the Council was in draft form. It would be very brief and the group agreed that it should include a clause to the effect that though Guatemala had not deposited the ratification of the Rio Treaty, she should be invited to the meeting.

(d) Crocker did not believe the meeting would be very long and would not involve many speeches. He was working on his own speech.

(e) A complete draft of the Secretary's speech for the OAS meeting will be ready on Tuesday, June 29 according to McJennett.

(f) Jamison, Herron and Wieland were to develop a press release for issuance by the Secretary at the time the OAS Council calls the meeting of Foreign Ministers.

(g) A Spanish text of the draft resolution has been prepared. Woodward suggested that this draft be distributed to the Latin Americans so that there would not be so many texts floating around.

5. Publicity

There was considerable discussion of the developments in connection with a television program this Sunday, "The American Forum of the Air" by Granik. It was decided that Herron should call Granik's office and suggest that four persons appear on the program to carry Chacano on the Guatemalan situation.

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